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From: Shore, Berry
Sent: Mon 7/11/2016 12:26:35 PM
Subject: POFA/PFOS Hoosick Falls Clips

New Inquiries Open Into Handling Of Hoosick Falls Water Crisis

By Karen Dewitt • 19 minutes ago (7:43am: 7/11/16)

WAMC, Northeast Public Radio

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Administration is facing greater scrutiny over handling of the Hoosick Falls water crisis. In recent days a Congressional committee opened an inquiry, and both the state Assembly and Senate will hold hearings.

Senator Kathy Marchione, whose district includes the village of Hoosick Falls, is the latest to open an inquiry into the handling of the water crisis, amid allegations that the Cuomo Administration knew the water was contaminated with the chemical PFOA, but delayed telling residents for over a year.

"The Senate is going to be holding hearings," said Marchione. "The first one will be held here, in Hoosick Falls."

Marchione had resisted holding the hearings for months, saying they would only lead to finger pointing. She's been heavily criticized on social media. Her announcement, came after US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand held a listening session at the Hoosick Falls High School with village residents. They spoke emotionally about the high levels of the toxic chemical PFOA, which was used in the manufacture of Teflon products by a nearby plant, and was found in their blood. Michael Hickey was one of the first to become concerned when his father died of a rare kidney cancer. Now, he worries about his own son, who is growing up in the village .

"I started as a heartbroken son," said Hickey, who said he's now a "scared father".

The residents are also angry about the way they were informed of the levels of the toxin in their blood. The state health department mailed the test results on a Friday, so many arrived over the weekend. Recipients say they were offered little support when they received the devastating news, something the health department denies.

Perhaps the most consequential inquiry, though- is one begun by the Congressional Oversight Committee, which is demanding the Cuomo Administration hand over all documents and communications related to Hoosick Falls and PFOA from May 2014 on. In a letter, the committee cites other documents that show health department officials knew of the potential contamination for over a year, but did not tell residents that they might be in danger. The committee says the “sluggish response” “raises serious questions”, and “caused residents to remain exposed to dangerous levels of PFOA”.

“That’s nothing short of a bombshell,” said Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin represents Hoosick Falls in the Assembly. He’s been calling for more scrutiny. And McLaughlin, a former commercial airline pilot, says he’s pleased that the Democratic led State Assembly has now agreed to hold hearing, bringing the number of inquiries to three.

“When an airplane crashes we don’t just say, ‘let’s move forward’,” McLaughlin said. “We break that whole accident down, and we analyze it so it doesn’t happen again.”

A spokesman for Governor Cuomo, James Allen, responding to the letter from the federal oversight committee, says the administration will “gladly share” their experience, but he put some of the blame on the EPA, saying there were “shifting guidelines and absence of regulation.”

Governor Cuomo, asked about the committee’s requests during a recent trip to Utica, focused on all of the actions he’s taken since January of this year, when he declared parts of the village a state Superfund site, began actions against the potentially responsible company, St Gobain, and installed water filters.

“There’s nothing else that we could do,” Cuomo said.

The first hearings, held by the State Senate, will begin in August.

Senator hears PFOA fears

At Hoosick Falls gathering, residents ask for information

By Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs

Published 10:33 pm, Friday, July 8, 2016

Photo: U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand wipes tears from her eyes as she listens to Hoosick resident Emily Mapes tell how the PFOA contamination has personally impacted her life during a roundtable discussion at Hoosick Falls Central School on Friday July 8, 2016 in Hoosick falls, N.Y. (Michael P. Farrell/Times Union) Photo: Michael P. Farrell / 20037243A

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand met Friday with Hoosick Falls and Petersburg residents, hearing from them about the impact of their water being contaminated with a hazardous man-made chemical, and pressing for medical monitoring similar to that provided to 9/11 first responders.

Many in the Hoosick Falls Central School auditorium viewed the discussion — which included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences — as a way for Gillibrand to grasp the depth of the problem. Others criticized the fact that it took place when many residents couldn't attend because of work.

Gillibrand wiped tears from her eyes as Emily Marpe of Petersburg told of a call from the Rensselaer County Health Department saying, "I'm calling you early on a Saturday morning. You need to stop brushing your teeth right now."

Marpe said she received a letter in the mail soon thereafter alerting her that her 10-year-old daughter's PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) blood level was more than 100 times the national average. Studies link above-average PFOA levels to increased risk of testicular

cancer and found potential links to kidney and thyroid cancers, according to the American Cancer Society. "My kids, they're my world," Marpe said, fighting through tears.

Heather Clifford, a Hoosick Falls single mother of two boys, said the lack of answers about the effects of PFOA was making the problem worse.

"What does it mean when your 17-year-old son opens up a letter and it says 87?" she said, referring to the PFOA parts per billion in his blood, more than 40 times the national average of 2.03. "What does that mean? And none of us know, and I think that's what's causing the chaos."

Gillibrand said that because so little is known about the effects of PFOA, especially when young children are exposed, legislators should "rewrite the law" that allows for medical monitoring of 9/11 first responders to include residents affected by water contamination.

"A lot of these illnesses like cancers take 20 years to develop, but because they've done this medical monitoring, they now know exactly which cancers are caused by the toxins that were released at the 9/11 site," Gillibrand said. "And so we have something that we can model, hopefully, our state law after."

Sue Fenton, a federal representative for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, responded to residents who asked for concrete answers about the effects of increased PFOA levels. She said that as long as exposure does not continue, PFOA levels in adults decrease by half every three years.

"We have been studying the health effects for such a short time that we can't say what the long-term outcomes will be for children," Fenton continued. "The younger you are when you're exposed — you carry a different burden of that exposure."

Anna Wysocki, a member of the panel who graduated this spring from Hoosick Falls

High School, called Hoosick Falls "an amazing little town" and expressed fear that her younger friends would not be able to experience the same joys that she did.

"Despite my leaving and going to college, Hoosick Falls will always be my home, and I hope that people in Hoosick Falls and even people across the world are able to learn from this experience and never let something like this happen again," Wysocki said. "We will move forward and we will be strong because we now have a voice in Senator Gillibrand and we have a community to support that voice."

Standing outside of the school, Army veteran Gregory Restino of Hoosick Falls and Rob Cottrell of Petersburg, an active member of the Army, said the roundtable was "a first step," but it was poorly planned and the format ended with more questions than answers.

Cottrell said that because many companies in the area have overlapping first and second shifts, people who wanted to attend the discussion could not make it to the school in time.

"You wouldn't be able to park near that road if this was after work hours, six o'clock," he said, pointing to the school parking lot, which was less than half full. Cottrell added that the roundtable format helped residents share their experiences, but gave them no tangible information.

"What you got up there was a panel of people who had stories," he said. "What you've got out here is a crowd that wants answers. I don't want to give you a story, I want to give you a question."

As the audience of 110 people filtered into the auditorium before the discussion, they were encouraged to write questions for Gillibrand on pieces of paper and place them in a basket. Only one person was selected to ask her question to the senator, but Gillibrand said she would have all the questions sent to her office and someone would respond by email.

The senator told reporters after the discussion, which ran over its scheduled one hour, that the listening session was important. "I think all people in public life should do more listening than talking," she said.

Gillibrand also said that PFOA should be tested under the Toxic Substances Control Act, which had not been revised in 40 years until the Senate passed an update in June.

"I'm asking, specifically, to have PFOA be one of the first chemicals tested under the new TSCA law to say, is it safe or not? Because we need answers — we don't have answers," Gillibrand said. "A lot of our requirements only kick in if your water system feeds 10,000 people. What about the smaller communities that maybe only feed 5,000 people? That's a problem."

Also Friday, the state Senate announced it would hold hearings on the contamination crisis in Rensselaer County, including a session in Hoosick Falls.

In a statement, Republican Majority Leader John Flanagan said the hearings would allow the Senate "to explore the sources of water contamination, examine state and federal oversight issues, and determine how we can prevent this from happening in the future."

The Democratic leadership of the Assembly, which like the Senate had previously been resistant to holding hearings, announced on Wednesday it would schedule two sessions on water quality issues.

Flanagan said it "goes without saying that we welcome the opportunity to partner with the Assembly to maximize the focus on this important issue."

The news represented a reversal by Flanagan and Sen. Kathy Marchione, R-Halfmoon, who both faced pressure to hold hearings — especially after this week's news that Congress had asked Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration and the Environmental Protection Agency to produce materials on the state and federal response to the PFOA crisis.

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Gillibrand seeks ongoing health monitoring in PFOA-affected areas

By MICHAEL GOOT mgoot@poststar.com

July 8, 2016

Glen Falls PostStar

HOOSICK FALLS — U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand wants ongoing monitoring for the residents affected by the PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg, similar to how first responders to the 9/11 terrorist attacks had their health studied.

The state Department of Health is doing blood testing for the residents affected by water contaminated with perfluorooctanoic acid, which is a chemical used in nonstick coatings.

The Saint-Gobain and Honeywell companies are required to clean up the contamination and pay for the cost as part of a settlement the companies reached with the state in May.

Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said she would like the state to go further and pass new legislation that says that residents affected by this crisis can receive monitoring. Right now, people have to be sick to qualify for monitoring.

“A lot of illnesses like cancer take 10 years to develop,” she said Friday at a forum at Hoosick Falls High School about the issue.

The monitoring would be paid for by the companies that caused the contamination, she said.

The legislation could be modeled after those people who responded to the attacks and cleaned up the aftermath at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan.

Gillibrand listened to a panel of community members who shared their frustration that the situation did not come to light until they had been drinking the water for decades.

Clare Myers of Hoosick Falls said her parents grew up locally and she has been drinking the water for about 15 years. She is concerned there are no laws to make PFOA illegal.

“It’s daunting that this could happen in another town. It could happen anywhere,” she said.

Emily Marpe of Petersburg said she was living in what she thought was her dream home and found out that the well was contaminated with PFOA. Her whole family tested for extremely high levels, she said.

Marpe said residents had been kept in the dark and there was very little information. She said she had to educate herself.

Dr. Sue Fenton of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences told the crowd that because they have stopped their exposure to PFOA, the levels of the chemical in their blood should go down by half every three years.

The bad news is that health experts do not know exactly how exposure could affect long-term health because they only have been studying the chemical for a short time. A person’s health could be affected by genetics and other factors, according to Fenton.

Two people with the same exposure probably won't have the same outcomes," she said.

Gillibrand said the goal of this monitoring would be for doctors to develop the expertise in studying the possible effects of the chemical.

Dr. Pat Breysse, director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health, said people at the federal level are hearing these concerns about people not knowing if their water is safe.

"We're trying to work on a more national scale. We can redouble our efforts and we can do better," he said.

Anna Wysocki, a recent graduate of Hoosick Falls High School, said she is glad that Gillibrand came to listen to the concerns of residents.

I cannot thank you enough for seeing the problem at hand and being strong enough to not run away from us," she said.

You can read Michael Goot's blog "A Time to Learn" at www.poststar.com or his updates on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ps_education](https://twitter.com/ps_education).

N.Y. Sen. Gillibrand meets with local residents on PFOA contamination: Emotions ran high as attendees shared their stories of PFOA contamination

By Edward Damon

edamon@berkshireeagle.com @BE_EDamon on Twitter

Posted: 07/08/2016 09:13:27 PM EDT | Updated: a day ago

Berkshire Eagle.com

Residents of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg, N.Y. sit back... (Holly Pelczynski - Bennington Banner)

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. >> U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said she will fight for stricter regulations on a toxic chemical found in local water supplies and for health studies for residents.

The Democrat and county resident on Friday met with residents faced with water contamination. She drew applause when she called for a ban on PFOA, a man-made chemical used in factories for decades.

She became emotional at times as residents shared their stories.

"Your testimony is important," Gillibrand said to participants and 300 attendees in the high school auditorium of the Hoosick Falls Central School. She spoke in support of hearings on the government response to contamination. "We have to elevate this so we can change the laws. We have to have as many people as possible pay attention."

The event coincided with something many residents have long called for — the state Senate announced it will hold hearings on the response to the man-made chemical that turned up in drinking water. The decision comes two days after the Assembly announced it would hold hearings.

The Senate hearings will "explore the sources of water contamination, examine state and federal oversight issues, and determine how we can prevent this from happening in the future," John Flanagan, a Republican, said in a statement.

Panelists included Superintendent Ken Facin, resident Michael Hickey, teachers, students and residents, as well as officials with the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Some audience members appeared to be frustrated with the meeting and walked out after just a few minutes. On social media, some criticized Gillibrand and others for not giving more time for questions.

In a meeting with the press, Gillibrand, said that her goal was to listen. She said federal agencies were there at her request and left with an understanding of how serious the situation is and how scared people are. She said her office, which provided note cards and contact information to residents, will review any written questions.

Gillibrand did not directly respond to questions about whether Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration delayed response to the water crisis.

When asked about what else the state could do, she said the state and federal government needs better laws to make polluters pay.

"I don't think anyone ever handles issues as well as we could. It's always more clear in hindsight," she said.

PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid, turned up in municipal water systems and private wells in the town of Hoosick, the village of Hoosick Falls, and the town of Petersburg. The man-made chemical was formerly used to make Teflon and been linked to cancer and other diseases.

Gillibrand said a medical monitoring program, like the one modeled for 9/11 first responders, would study health effects and provide guidance for local doctors.

She told reporters that she believes that program "should be the number one thing the state asks for when negotiating with the companies" responsible for the contamination."

In Hoosick Falls, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics and Honeywell International have signed consent orders. In Petersburg, Taconic Plastics is the responsible party, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation. That company hasn't signed a consent order. All have paid for bottled water and filters.

News reports talk about the state declaring Superfund sites, declining home values and lawsuits, resident Heather Clifford said. But no ones been able to answer questions about health.

"I need to know what to tell my kids," she told Gillibrand.

Scientists have been studying health effects for such a short time, long-term problems for children aren't known, according to Sue Fenton of the NIEHS. Even for adults, genetics can effect the outcome.

"Two people with the same exposure won't have the same outcomes," she said.

For that reason, she advised residents to talk to their doctors and have them look at kidney and thyroid every year.

Some panelists said they grew up, moved away, but returned and cited Hoosick Falls as a safe community. Some shared stories of family members who died of cancer but had healthy lifestyles. Mothers said they were guilty for breastfeeding and possibly harming their babies. Teachers said students' stress affected them in the classroom.

Amy Bresse, of Hoosick, said her home had a POET installed in February. But it hasn't been tested and she's received no information on maintenance. She called for a clean water source.

Emily Marpe became emotional as she described learning about PFOA in her well at

what she thought was her dream home in Petersburg. She described the shock and anxiety of learning how much PFOA was in her family members' blood, and researching science into the early mornign hours.

"I don't want my home," Marpe said. "It's not my home. It might as well belong to Taconic Plastics."

Clare Myers, a rising senior, and recent graduate Anna Wysocki described Hoosick as a close-knit community.

"This could happen anywhere. As awful as it is what happened here, its going to be worse if it happens again," Myers said.

Contact Edward Damon at 413-770-6979

Gillibrand Attends PFOA Panel In Hoosick Falls

By Lucas Willard • Jul 8, 2016

WAMC Public Radio

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was in Hoosick Falls, New York Friday to hear from families affected by chemically-contaminated water.

Inside the Hoosick Falls High School auditorium, Gillibrand sat on a panel that included residents of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg, as well as representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To cheers from the audience, the New York Democrat said she would fight to ban the chemical PFOA that has been found in local water supplies.

“The only reason a hearing makes a difference is because we need the Federal government, state governments across the country to respond. We need to ban PFOA as a chemical, period. It needs to be banned,” said Gillibrand.

The Democrat also said she would use the newly updated Toxic Substances Control Act to regulate the chemical.

“I’m asking specifically to have PFOA be one of the first chemicals tested under the TOSCA to say 'Is it safe or not?' because we need answers. We don't have answers,” said Gillibrand.

Gillibrand said she would push for medical monitoring for those affected by the chemical, which has been linked to ill-health effects including cancer.

Shortly after the meeting began, panel member Michael Hickey, who has been credited with first testing his own water for PFOA in the summer of 2014, suggested that hearings into state government’s response would not be effective.

“In my opinion, we really don’t need hearings. It was pretty simple to see where the ball was dropped,” said Hickey.

Hickey did say, however, that hearings would be helpful for others.

Hickey’s statement apparently angered several audience members, some of which stormed out.

Standing outside, Hoosick Falls resident Silvia Potter said the meeting, which mainly focused on the personal stories of affected residents, was not what she expected to hear.

“We certainly do not need an explanation as to what PFOA is. By this point, any one of us can give a lecture on that. So no, they are buying up time. I have the impression that this is a pacifying action.”

Potter had hoped the Senator and panel members would take more questions from the audience. The Hoosick Falls School District said afterward that it would forward any unanswered questions to the Senator’s office.

At the same meeting state Senator Kathy Marchione announced that the Senate would hold investigative hearings on contaminated water, the first of which will be held in Hoosick Falls this August.

“In the past, what I’ve said is that we’re going to focus on real results. What I’m telling you know is we’re still focusing on real results, but we’re also going to have a hearing. We’re going to have hearings, the first of which will be here in Hoosick Falls,” said Marchione.

The Assembly announced this week that it would hold hearings in September. Meanwhile, a federal probe has been launched by a House task force into state government’s response to the crisis.

Michele Baker, who has been an outspoken advocate for hearings, welcomed the news.

“We now have both houses of New York State. We have a federal investigation probe and we moms don’t stop until we can make sure that our children’s healths are protected,” said Baker.

New York Senate to Hold Hearings on Hoosick Falls’s Tainted Water

by JESSE McKINLEY

JULY 8, 2016

NY Times

Residents of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., at the State Capitol last month. Recent blood tests in their village showed levels of a toxic chemical that were 15 times the national median. Credit Nathaniel Brooks for The New York Times

ALBANY — Amid rising pressure to investigate the causes and consequences of one of the state's worst recent environmental crises, the New York Senate announced on Friday that it would hold hearings next month on the polluted water in Hoosick Falls.

The announcement, made by the Senate majority leader, John J. Flanagan, a Long Island Republican, capped a week of escalating tension about the level of governmental response in Hoosick Falls. Scores of residents who drank the upstate village's water have tested positive for perfluorooctanoic acid, which has been linked in some studies to cancer and other serious diseases.

Even as Mr. Flanagan's news release was issued, United States Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand was completing an emotional meeting with residents of the village and surrounding areas, ending it with a call for more state and federal action on the chemical, known as PFOA.

"I can tell you they are anxious and they are worried," Ms. Gillibrand, a Democrat, said after the meeting, adding, "And there's not a lot of clear answers."

Mr. Flanagan's decision to hold hearings in August — in the village itself — came two days after the State Assembly scheduled water-quality hearings for early September, with a broader mandate to examine contamination statewide.

PFOA is involved in the making of Teflon. Last year, the chemical was confirmed in

dangerously high levels in the village's water supply, which is drawn from municipal wells near a factory, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. State officials say the factory was the source of the contamination.

Mr. Flanagan's decision came after months of pressure from local residents and some lawmakers, who denounced the lack of public hearings on the contamination.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and his staff have bristled at the suggestion that they had not acted aggressively enough to address the problem. On Friday, Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat, once again defended his response, citing efforts to hold accountable the companies tied to the pollution — Saint Gobain and Honeywell International, which preceded Saint Gobain on the site — as well as putting in new water filtration systems.

"I can't think of what else we could possibly do," Mr. Cuomo said, adding that monitoring PFOA and other chemicals was going to be a challenge, not just for the state, but also for the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee also acted this week, sending letters to Mr. Cuomo's office and the E.P.A. seeking documents and communications that could show when each entity first learned about the contamination in the water.

In its letter to Mr. Cuomo, the Republican-led committee voiced concern about "a sluggish response" to the crisis and "whether residents received misleading information that indicated the water posed no health risks." Critics have cited several examples of missed opportunities, including a December fact sheet from state health officials that did not overtly warn residents to use bottled water instead of tap water, despite a previous federal admonition that village officials do so.

On Friday, the State Health Department said that it acted promptly after the E.P.A. made a public statement on PFOA in Hoosick Falls in mid-December. The Cuomo administration, meanwhile, said it would "gladly share our experience in New York" with House officials, as well as the Legislature, but reasserted the need for "clear federal regulations."

The water in Hoosick Falls, about 30 miles northeast of Albany, has been a brewing political problem for Mr. Cuomo since late January, when he classified the factory a Superfund site and ordered blood tests for residents. In early June, those results began to be released, and the findings were troubling: The median level for those tested so far was nearly 15 times the national median for those 12 or older.

On Friday, Ms. Gillibrand said that she heard residents' concerns over and over, hardening her desire for additional federal action from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, both of whom she brought to Hoosick Falls.

And while she said she appreciated the governor's efforts to filter the water and to test the wells and residents' blood, she suggested the overall government response had fallen short. "There is no one who has done a good job in easing their fears," she said.

NY Senate to hold hearings on drinking water contamination

By Peter DeLuca Jul. 10, 2016

WKTV.com Channel 2 (Utica, NY)

Albany, NY - The state Senate will hold public hearings on drinking water contamination in Hoosick Falls and other communities - a longtime demand of residents in the Rensselaer County village dealing with a toxic chemical contamination.

Republican Senate Leader John Flanagan announced the hearings on Friday. An initial hearing is set for August in Hoosick Falls.

Residents there have sought hearings into why the state Health Department didn't warn them about contamination until 18 months after it was discovered.

Top lawmakers balked at hearings until this week. The Assembly announced earlier this week that it would hold hearings. A congressional committee is also looking into the contamination.

Hoosick Falls and nearby Petersburg are in the midst of cleanup work for contamination with PFOA, a chemical used in making Teflon and similar materials.

Assembly to hold hearings on water-quality issues in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg

By Nicholas Buonanno, nbuonanno@troyrecord.com, [@NickBuonanno](#) on Twitter

Posted: 07/07/16, 11:44 AM EDT | Updated: 3 days ago

Troy Record

After dealing with water-quality issues in the village of Hoosick Falls and in the town of Petersburg for months, the state Assembly announced late Wednesday afternoon it will finally have public hearings on the matter in September.

The Assembly originally planned to have hearings in April, but those hearings were postponed.

“I have been calling for legislative hearings for months, but there is still time for the state Senate to do the right thing and join our efforts to find answers,” Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, R-Schaghticoke, said in a news release. “If for 18 months someone ignored telling New Yorkers they were drinking toxic water and then expected not to be investigated, exposed or held accountable, they’re delusional because that’s criminal.”

Residents of Hoosick Falls are also being asked to limit their water use due to a problem at its water treatment plant.

Hoosick Falls Mayor David Borge says contractors broke wires in part of the plant, and that caused an electrical short.

“While proceeding with the construction for the full capacity GAC system, one of the contractors was breaking up concrete and according to original planning documents, there were no electrical lines in the concrete,” said Borge. “This proved not to be the case and all electrical service to the pumps and wells was lost. This occurred on Tuesday and crews worked through the evening to set up a temporary fix that has been effective. On Wednesday, crews began working on a permanent fix and that is expected to be operational on Friday. There never was a loss of water. Existing storage tanks held more than enough GAC filtered water. As a precaution, water restrictions were put in place and once the permanent fix is ready, we will reassess the situation and notify the public accordingly.”

Although the village has installed a temporary fix, residents have been asked to limit non-critical city water use until the problem is permanently solved.

The problem is expected to be fixed by Friday, when U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will take part in a roundtable discussion of the ongoing water contamination crisis with area residents.

Borge said that he is hopeful that these scheduled hearings will help clear things up for residents of the village.

“Many local residents have vocalized their desire for these hearings to be held so they could learn more about the Agencies’ communications and response,” said Borge. “Of course, the information the Village received from county, state and federal health officials, and the actions the Village took as a result, have been well documented and widely reported. The challenge was figuring out what measures to take to address contamination of a chemical that was not considered to be hazardous by either state or federal Agencies. This led to confusing and contradictory information amongst the Agencies, and the Village was left to navigate the situation on its own. We are hopeful legislative hearings will result in the development of clear guidance to localities that discover contamination of non-regulated chemicals in their communities in the future, so communities don’t have to contend with the situation Hoosick Falls found itself in.”

The state Health Department detected significant levels of perfluorooctanoic acid in samples of both raw and treated water in the system in Petersburg. Samples taken in the beginning of the year from the Hoosick Falls water system, which serves about 4,900 people, had PFOA levels that exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion in each liter of water.

PFOA is a toxic chemical used for decades primarily to make Teflon coating for cookware. Some studies have linked PFOA to certain types of cancer, and the EPA is considering regulating it under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

"We are happy that the Assembly Committees on Health and Environmental Conservation will be holding hearings to not only examine the quality of New York's drinking water, but to find out why it took so long for government agencies to act," Liz Moran, water & natural resources associate at Environmental Advocates of New York, said in a news release. "Everyone has a right to drink water without worrying that what comes from the tap could make them seriously ill. For the residents of Hoosick Falls, Petersburg and Newburgh, that right has been violated. Just as they fought for clean and safe water to drink, they have now raised their voices to demand answers so that other communities don't go through what they have. All New Yorkers owe them a huge debt of gratitude that hearings will be held and as a result, the necessary standards put in place to ensure that we all have access to clean, safe drinking water."

McLaughlin also believes that the residents of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg did a good job to continue to voice their concerns about the water-quality issues with state officials.

"The people of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg should be proud of their efforts and pressure they applied to make these hearings become a reality," he said in the release. "This is the first but very crucial step to find out who knew what, and when. This crisis has been nothing but a political hot potato for [Gov. Andrew Cuomo's] administration and the state Senate. If they want to avoid further embarrassment, I hope both parties will participate and cooperate in these hearings. I look forward to participating in these hearings as I have a multitude of questions that need answers from the Cuomo administration. I applaud and thank Speaker Heastie for following through on his promise and caring about the people of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg."

Last month, U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson, R-Kinderhook asked the Oversight Committee, which serves as the investigatory side of the House, to look into the response by state and federal officials to drinking water contamination.

The Oversight Committee did recently send letters to Gov. Cuomo and the Environmental Protection Agency requesting any and all information related to PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls.

“I concur with the concern shown by the Oversight Committee regarding the state and federal response to water contamination in my district,” Gibson said in a news release. “There has been a general lack of accountability as this situation was addressed and, to this day, my constituents are deeply concerned about ongoing health risks and delayed and confused responses by state and federal agencies. I thank the Oversight Committee joining with me to demand accountability, and look forward to the prompt responses by Governor Cuomo and the EPA to this investigation.”

“I cannot thank my colleague and friend Congressman Chris Gibson enough for his relentless efforts to help the people of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg,” McLaughlin said in a news release. “Today’s news that the United States Congress Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has joined the people of Hoosick Falls, Petersburg and myself in demanding answers from Governor Cuomo, his administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency is another small but important victory.”

Information from The Associated Press was used in this story.

Federal investigation launched in PFOA contamination crisis

By Kimberly Howard

Thursday, July 7th 2016

WRBG Albany, Channel 6 News

HOOSICK FALLS -- A House oversight committee is launching a federal investigation in light of the water contamination crisis in Hoosick Falls.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform sent letters to both Governor Cuomo and the Environmental Protection Agency asking for any and all information related to the water issues in that community.

Michele Baker has been helping lead the charge against the water crisis in Hoosick Falls and is now celebrating two victories that came almost simultaneously: The announcement of the federal probe and the Assembly announcing water quality hearings for September.

"This is another win for Hoosick Falls. I mean absolutely. We are finally going to get the answers that we deserve," Baker said.

The two letters from the federal oversight committee ask Cuomo and the EPA for all documents and communications relating to Hoosick Falls and the chemical that has been tainting the water there, PFOA.

The letters say there is evidence that state and county officials knew about the contamination as early as August of 2014, when they were contacted by the village, but people were not told to stop drinking the water until December of 2015.

"That timelapse, that could have meant the difference between a serious disease, maybe even life or death for some folks," Baker said.

The federal investigation comes after Congressman Chris Gibson called on the House of Representatives to hold federal hearings. Gibson told CBS6 over the phone from Washington D.C. that he is still pushing for that.

"[The federal investigation] could very well set the stage, through this deposition process, it could very well set the stage for hearings," Gibson said.

The letters set a July 20th deadline for the governor and the EPA to produce the documents. The hearings would give the Assembly and the House subpoena power.

"They have a couple of months to get their house in order and they better come prepared to answer these questions because I certainly have them as do the people of Hoosick Falls," Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin (R-Troy) said. "If they begin to haul people down to Washington under subpoena and you're under oath I think that they're going to expose a lot of what went on."

But both McLaughlin and Gibson are concerned about the governor's 90-day email deletion policy, which may have done away with key pieces of information being sought in this case.

"If they were following their own guidelines and deleting those emails, they are going to have a very difficult time reproducing the emails that the EPA is going to be able to reproduce, that the county and that the village are absolutely going to be able to reproduce," McLaughlin said. "That policy is designed for one thing: To keep the public in the dark."

Governor Cuomo's office released the following statement: "States across the country have struggled to confront evolving information about PFOA and other emerging contaminants, particularly in the face of shifting guidelines and the absence of regulation from the federal government. We will gladly share our experience in New York to clarify the facts and the steps we have taken to address these challenges. We hope the end result is that Congress and the federal government act swiftly to prioritize and to implement uniform, nationwide regulations of PFOA and similar, currently unregulated contaminants. No town, city, or state should have to fear the water they are drinking. With clear federal regulations, we can achieve that goal."

Hoosick Falls Mayor David Borge says both the hearings and the federal investigation are a positive thing for his community and he is both willing and ready to participate.

Hoosick Falls is also under water restrictions because of an electrical issue at the Water Treatment Plant but Borge says all of the water going to people's homes is filtered and

safe to drink. He says the restrictions should be lifted Friday when the issue is expected to be fixed.

Mount Sinai Hospital to hold public forums to address concerns over PFOA exposure

By Joe Gullo

Published: July 8, 2016, 1:40 pm

News 10 ABC

ALBANY, N.Y. (NEWS10) – Physicians from Mount Sinai Hospital announced they will hold public forums to discuss health concerns related to PFOA exposure with residents of Petersburg and Hoosick Falls.

The forums will allow residents to have their questions answered.

Forums will be held at the Veterans Memorial in Petersburg on July 29 at 6 p.m. and at the HAYC3 Armory in Hoosick Falls on July 30 at 11 a.m.

Additional dates will be considered as requested.

In January, the Department of Health started a PFOA biomonitoring program for individuals who have lived or worked in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg.

To date, the hospital says the program has measured PFOA levels in the blood of more than 2,500 participants.

The DOH and has partnered with the hospital to provide residents with information and resources about PFOA exposure.

Mount Sinai Hospital continues to be available to all individuals that participated in the biomonitoring program by calling 1-866-265-6201.

Mount Sinai Hospital to host forums on PFOA exposure

By - Associated Press

Monday, July 11, 2016

Washington Times

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Physicians from New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital will host public forums in late July to discuss health concerns related to PFOA exposure in two upstate New York villages.

The forums will allow residents of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg to have any questions answered by experts.

PFOA is a toxic chemical long used in the manufacture of Teflon and other nonstick coatings before it was phased out amid health concerns. The chemical has been linked to cancer and other illnesses.

The two Rensselaer County villages are in the midst of cleanup work for PFOA contamination in their water supplies.

The forums will be held at the Veterans Memorial in Petersburg on July 29 and the HAYC3 Armory in Hoosick Falls on July 30. Additional dates will be considered as requested.

PFOS/PFOA Horsham Water Contamination: PFOA and PFOS detected in Neshaminy Creek July 10, 2016

Unwell Water: Everything you need to know about area well contaminati

Posted: Friday, July 8, 2016 5:09 pm

BY Kyle Bagenstose, staff write

Intelligencier

Over the past two years, 16 public wells and about 140 private wells have been shut down by contamination from perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate. The former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham, along with the active Horsham Air Guard Station, are thought to be the source of the taint.

This news organization has been investigating and writing extensively on the topic, telling the stories of local people who believe they've been sickened by the chemicals, speaking with health experts on the potential toxicity of the chemicals, and examining the actions taken by local, state and federal agencies as they address the contamination.

As a public service, we will make this content available to subscribers and non-subscribers.

As more Bucks and Montgomery water suppliers test for — and find — perfluorinated compounds in their systems, a picture is emerging that the chemicals may be widely prevalent in drinking water not just regionally, but across the nation.

Aqua Pennsylvania, a Bryn Mawr-based water supplier that is one of the largest in the region, on Friday released partial results of an ongoing sampling program for the unregulated chemicals in its systems. The results show perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) present at 14 parts per trillion (ppt) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) at 6.6 ppt in the water pulled from the Neshaminy Creek at the company's Neshaminy Creek Plant.

Those numbers are less than a third of a combined 70 ppt limit recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency in a health advisory released in May.

The plant is located on Old Lincoln Highway just south of Neshaminy High School, in Middletown. A document on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection website states the plant draws about 11 million gallons of water a day to serve approximately 38,000 customers in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Aqua's testing results show the chemicals were also found at 18 ppt in a public well in Upper Dublin and 9.8 ppt in a well in Abington.

The results are far lower than the levels of PFOS and PFOA found in public wells in Horsham, Warminster, and Warrington over the past few years, which reached as high as 1,439 ppt. Sixteen public wells in those communities have been taken offline in the past several years after they were found to exceed the EPA's advisory limits.

Still, concern over the chemicals has been growing in the region, spurred last week by a crowded community meeting hosted by Weitz & Luxenberg, a New York City-based law firm considering a class action lawsuit over the contamination.

The chemicals are unregulated, meaning the EPA does not require water authorities to test for them. They were found locally in 2014 as part of an EPA testing program designed to gauge their prevalence nationwide.

At that time, the chemicals were found in the communities near the former Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove in Horsham and former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the active Horsham Air Guard Station. The contamination is suspected to have originated from the use of firefighting foams, which contain the chemicals and were used on the bases as far back as the 1970s.

Health research into the chemicals is still new, but they've been linked by some studies to a variety of cancers, thyroid disease, reproductive issues, and a variety of other ailments. However, the EPA is steadfast in its use of the 70 ppt threshold, saying the figure incorporated available science and is protective of the health of all humans, including pregnant and nursing mothers and their children.

Some believe a safe level should be lower: New Jersey uses a stricter 40 ppt advisory limit for PFOA, while Vermont has instituted a 20 ppt standard.

The C8 Science Panel, which produced the largest body of research to date, found health effects after analyzing a population that was exposed to as little as 50 ppt for PFOA. In June 2015, researchers Philippe Grandjean, of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Richard Clapp, of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, released an analysis stating they believe a safe level of PFOA in drinking water to be approximately 1 ppt for some health effects.

Some local communities have also decided to exercise an abundance of caution. Horsham and Warminster have both initiated plans that aim to remove the chemicals to 1 ppt or lower.

The discrepancy has worried neighboring communities: the chemicals have also been found in low levels in a pair of Northampton's wells, while there are no testing results yet available for nearby wells in Hatboro and Upper Southampton.

The chemicals are present in other areas of the county: in May, a public well in Doylestown Township was closed due to PFOA levels approximately three times the EPA's 70 ppt limit. The source of the contamination there is unknown and not expected to have resulted from the distant military bases. An ongoing investigation by the DEP has found the chemicals below EPA advisories in public wells in Plumstead, Doylestown and Buckingham.

A well in Bristol Township also contains the chemicals at 27.1 ppt, according to Aqua's results.

Depending on the water system, a single well could only account for a small amount of the water that reaches customers' taps, as it is diluted by other wells or sources of water.

In addition to firefighting foams, PFOA, and to a lesser extent PFOS, were also used in the manufacturing of a wide variety of consumer and industrial goods, including non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, paper packaging for food and piping.

They are considered by experts to be extremely persistent in the environment, meaning they do not break down in water or soil and are easily carried long distances in water.

As part of its 2014 nationwide sampling program, the EPA found PFOA and PFOS in about 2 percent of the 4,864 water systems it tested. But the minimum detection level was approximately 60 ppt combined.

In 2009, researchers with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection sampled 33 water systems throughout the state, using a laboratory that could detect the chemicals down to 5 ppt. The study found some level of PFOA in 55 percent of the systems, and PFOS in 27 percent.

Christopher Higgins, an associate professor with the Colorado School of Mines' department of civil and environmental engineering, has studied how perfluorinated compounds move in the environment and accumulate in plants and worms since the early 2000s.

He says the chemicals are widely found in the environment from a diverse number of sources, including military bases, landfills, industrial areas and wastewater plants.

However, they are not naturally occurring, Higgins said.

“(The chemicals) are coming from somewhere ... not all groundwater is going to have these compounds in it.”

He added that suburban and industrial areas such as Lower Bucks likely could contain a number of different sources.

“It’s not all that surprising to me that there are low levels throughout that groundwater,” Higgins said.

US jury awards more damages in DuPont Teflon case

By Al Greenwood

08 July 2016 20:13

ICIS News

HOUSTON (ICIS)--A federal jury found DuPont liable on Friday for an additional \$500,000 in a lawsuit alleging that a feedstock of Teflon caused a man to develop cancer after the material was discharged into a river near the company's former Washington Works complex in West Virginia, spin-off Chemours said on Friday.

While DuPont was named in the lawsuit, Chemours now owns the company's Teflon business and the Washington Works complex.

The lawsuit, filed by David Freeman, is one of about 3,500 filed against DuPont by people who alleged that the feedstock is toxic and caused them to develop cancer or other health problems.

Earlier, the jury awarded Freeman \$5.1m in his negligence claims against DuPont. The additional \$500,000 on Friday were punitive damages added on top of those from the negligence claims.

The feedstocks involved in the lawsuit are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its ammonium salt, called C-8. Up until the fourth quarter of 2014, PFOA was used as a processing aid to make Teflon, a fluoropolymer.

In a statement, DuPont said it would appeal the verdict. It alleged that jurors were misled about the risks of exposure to C-8. In addition, the findings from an independent science panel were misrepresented, the company said.

Media reports have said that Chemours had agreed to pay for the damages in the PFOA litigation.

Chemours did not comment about such an agreement. However, it stressed that DuPont is directly liable for any judgment.

"In the event DuPont claims that it is entitled to indemnification from Chemours as to some or all of the judgment, Chemours retains its defenses to such claims," the company said on Friday.

Under indemnification, DuPont would request that Chemours reimburse it for the damages.

The Freeman case is the second to reach trial among the approximately 3,500 that have been filed against DuPont.

The first, Bartlett versus DuPont, resulted in a \$1.6m verdict against the company, Chemours said in its annual report. Unlike the Freeman case, the Bartlett case did not involve punitive damages. DuPont has also appealed that case.

Another case, Wolf versus DuPont, was settled for an amount that Chemours said was significantly below what it would have paid to prepare for trial.

These lawsuits go back to an August 2001 class-action case, called Leach versus DuPont, that was filed in West Virginia state court, the annual report said. In the lawsuit, people living near the Washington Works complex alleged that their health suffered because of their exposure to PFOA.

Three years later, DuPont reached a settlement with about 80,000 people in the class-action lawsuit, the Chemours annual report said.

Afterward, an independent panel was created to find any links between PFOA exposure and health problems, the report said. Ultimately, the panel found probable links between PFOA exposure and pregnancy-induced hypertension, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol.

Members of the Leach class-action lawsuit could pursue personal-injury claims against DuPont only for the conditions covered in the panel's report, Chemours said.

In the majority of the subsequent lawsuits, the plaintiffs alleged that PFOA exposure caused them to develop high cholesterol or thyroid disease, Chemours said in its annual report. Another 37 lawsuits alleged that PFOA killed the people exposed to it. In all, 7% of the cases allege cancer.

The Freeman case was the latest one to go to trial. According to Chemours, two more trials are scheduled for this year.

Looking ahead, the court will hear 40 trials per year starting in April 2017, Chemours said. These trials will pertain to the cancer cases. The remaining lawsuits will remain inactive.

The case number of the Freeman case is 13-cv-1103, and it was filed in US District Court, Southern District of Ohio.

The Bartlett case was also filed in US District court, Southern District of Ohio. Its case number is 13-cv-00170.

It has since been appealed to the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth District. Its case number in the appeals court is 16-3310.

Salem water found to be safe

Results still not available for four of 28 wells tested for chemical contamination

By Doug Ireland dreland@eagletribune.com

Jul 7, 2016

SALEM, N.H. — Results for the majority of wells tested for possible contamination from a nearby landfill show the water is safe to drink.

Tests conducted by the state Department of Environmental Services on 24 of 28 private wells detected either no contamination or levels so low they did not pose a health threat, according to Town Manager Leon Goodwin.

Goodwin said Thursday that results for the four other wells tested should be available by next week.

The levels in the 24 wells were about 10 parts per trillion — well below the state standard of 70 ppt, he said.

Testing at nearby Hedgehog Pond — a popular town beach — also showed levels deemed to be safe, Goodwin said.

Those levels also measured at 10 parts per trillion, he said.

Monitoring wells at the 16-acre, unlined landfill, closed since 1984, showed elevated levels of perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, and perfluorooctaine sulfonate, or PFOS.

Low levels of PFOA and PFOS were found in the 28 wells while only PFOA was found in the Hedgehog Pond water, Goodwin said. The 56 wells are within a half-mile radius of the old landfill.

At the landfill, PFOA concentrations soared to 560 ppt, DES spokesman James Martin said. PFOS concentrations at the landfill were as high as 260 ppt, he said.

The town's water system was not affected by the problem at LL&S, which collects and recycles construction and demolition materials.

High levels of PFOA recently turned up in other groundwater supplies across the state, including Merrimack. Bottled water is being provided to many of those residents until the matter is resolved.

DES spokesman James Martin has said the contamination at the landfill is believed to be linked to foam used to douse fires there over the years. A five-alarm fire at the site in September burned for 13 hours and required firefighters from 13 communities to extinguish the blaze.

John Regan of the state's Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau and hydrologist James O'Rourke met with selectmen Tuesday, and described the efforts to test residents' wells after contaminated groundwater was detected at LL&S.

At that point, results for only seven of the 28 wells were available. But 28 additional wells eligible for testing had not been sampled because the DES needed the property owners' consent.

Selectmen Chairman James Keller asked the DES representatives to provide the names of the 28 property owners so the town could contact them.

For more information on PFOA and PFOS, the DES hotline is 603-271-9461.

Test results show Sammamish water safe to drink

Jul 8, 2016 at 5:21PM

Issaquah/Sammamish Reporter (Washington State)

Sammamish Plateau Water District's water is safe to drink, according to water test results the district received Friday.

Those tests that were taken from the district's production Well 7 in June showed only trace amounts of manufactured perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, and Well 9 had no detectable PFCs.

While evaluating water quality issues affecting its Well 4, the city of Issaquah took a water sample from the district's monitoring well 7.3, located approximately 45 feet from production Well 7. Monitoring wells are used to evaluate the aquifer and do not supply drinking water. The test result for the monitoring well showed a minute trace amount of PFC, meaning it is well below the health advisory level and therefore not a danger, according to a press release from the Sammamish Plateau Water District.

The district's board of commissioners, however, chose on July 5, to take proactive steps to aggressively protect their water. Consultants are being retained to develop continuous and intensive monitoring/testing programs, and study ground water movement. Their work will help determine if and how contaminants are moving towards the district's production well, whether testing results demonstrate a threat, and if further action is needed.

"We have a history of being extremely protective of our customers' water. Any potential threat is taken seriously and acted upon immediately," said Jay Krauss, general manager at Sammamish Plateau Water, in the press release. "In this case, our own tests show that Well 7 has minute amounts of PFCs and Well 9 had no detectable PFCs. Water from both are completely safe. If any of our tests showed otherwise, we'd switch production to other wells or the regional supply to protect the public. We have a flexible supply system and can change water source if needed."

Even with the Well 7 and 9 test results showing trace to no detectable amounts of PFCs, the district leadership and commissioners took the monitoring well results of a trace amount as a reason to be extra conservative.

According to a letter from Chad Seidel, a recognized expert in complex drinking water quality challenges, and vice president of Corona Environmental Consultants, "Sammamish Plateau Water collected water samples from production Wells 7 and 9 in June and tested for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs). All of the results from both wells were below the USEPA health advisory levels. PFCs were not detected in Well 9 water.

"However, minute concentrations of two PFCs were found in well 7 water — perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS). Sammamish Plateau Water is moving ahead with additional testing and planning to ensure high quality water supply."

PFCs have been in the press recently after a New York Times Magazine article identified known sites for PFOS/PFOA detection in the U.S. The "safe" levels of PFOA's and PFOS exposure have also been substantially lowered since the health effects have received more scrutiny and research.

The Environmental Protection Agency initiated testing requirements for a number of potential unregulated contaminants, which may affect water quality or health. The district was selected to begin testing for additional unregulated contaminants in 2015. All test results for 2015 were within the new and stricter advisory ranges, determined to be safe, including PFOS/PFOA, as reported in the recent Annual Water Quality Report.

"It's always been our policy to get out ahead of a potential threat before it becomes a problem," according to Scott Jonas, operations manager at Sammamish Plateau Water. "Our testing protocols go beyond what's required. We owe that to our customers."

Queensland slaps ban on toxic foams containing PFOS and PFOA

CARRIE FELLNER

July 8, 2016, 7 p.m.

New Castle Herald (Australia)

The NSW government is under pressure to follow suit, after the Queensland Government announced it would ban the use of the chemical firefighting foams that have caused widespread contamination around the Williamstown RAAF base.

On Friday, Queensland's Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles said his government would require any existing stocks of foam containing the chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) to be withdrawn from service at commercial and industrial premises.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Guy Zangari called on the NSW Government to conduct an "urgent audit" of all sites where the foam had been used, to determine what stocks were left and if any were in use.

"The Baird Government must act swiftly to ensure that the situation in Williamstown does not occur anywhere else in the state," he said.

Questions to NSW Environment Minister Mark Speakman were referred to the Environment Protection Authority. A spokesperson said the importation of the chemicals had already been phased out in Australia since 2003 and the focus of the organisation was “detecting and managing contamination legacies and exposure pathways.”

“That’s why we’re currently conducting a PFAS investigation program to identify sites where PFAS contamination may exist,” she said.

“We are also working with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories to ensure a coordinated approach to the management of this important issue.”

A spokesperson for the Department of Defence said it acknowledged the announcement made by the Queensland state government, but did not maintain any legacy stocks of the foam.

Street Insider.com

July 9, 2016

DuPont Statement on PFOA Personal Injury Trials

In 2014, six plaintiffs from the multi-district litigation (MDL) related to personal injury cases associated with exposure to PFOA in drinking water were selected for individual trial. In the second of these six bellwether cases to be tried, the plaintiff, Mr. Freeman, alleged that exposure to PFOA in drinking water caused his testicular cancer. On July 6, 2016, a jury in Ohio awarded compensatory damages to Mr. Freeman in the amount of \$5.1 million. On July 8, 2016, in the second phase of the Freeman trial, the jury awarded \$0.5 million in punitive damages plus attorneys' fees. E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (the "Company") will appeal.

The first bellwether case was tried to a verdict in 2015 and the jury awarded \$1.6 million in compensatory damages. The plaintiff, Ms. Bartlett, alleged that exposure to PFOA in drinking water caused kidney cancer. The Company is appealing the decision.

One case was voluntarily withdrawn from the bellwether trial pool by plaintiffs. The remaining three cases have been settled for amounts that are individually and in the aggregate, immaterial to the Company.

An approximate breakdown of the about 3,500 lawsuits in this MDL is shown below. In the majority of the cases, plaintiffs claim multiple injuries; as a result the number of claims does not sum to 3,500. About 75 percent of the 3,500 lawsuits in this MDL involve claims that allege high cholesterol and/or thyroid disease and less than ten percent allege cancer.

Alleged Injury	Approximate Number of Claims
Kidney cancer	200
Testicular cancer	70
Ulcerative colitis	300
Preeclampsia	200
Thyroid disease	1,430
High cholesterol	1,340

This type of litigation could take place over many years and interim results do not predict the final outcome of cases. The Company is indemnified by Chemours for these PFOA matters.

This information is being furnished pursuant to Item 7.01, and the information contained herein shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities under that Section. Furthermore, this information shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into the filings of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

US jury awards more damages in DuPont Teflon case

By Al Greenwood

08 July 2016 20:13

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\$500,000 in a lawsuit alleging that a feedstock of Teflon caused a man to develop cancer after the material was discharged into a river near the company's former Washington Works complex in West Virginia, spin-off Chemours said on Friday.

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The lawsuit, filed by David Freeman, is one of about 3,500 filed against DuPont by people who alleged that the feedstock is toxic and caused them to develop cancer or other health problems.

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